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8. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the encapsidation signal of the adenovirus defective genome of the first unit is inactivated by total or partial deletion.

9. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the non-structural regions of the adenovirus defective genome of the first unit is inactivated by total or partial deletion.

10. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the inactivated regions of the first unit are selected from the group consisting of E1, E2 and E4.

15. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the viral regions of the first genic unit is operatively linked to at least one regulatory element enabling the tight control of the expression of said regions.

16. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the promoter on the second genic unit is the tetracycline operator.

17. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the viral regions in the second genic unit are operatively linked to elements regulating the expression of said regions.

18. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1 wherein the adenovirus defective genome of the first unit is totally or partially constituted by the genome of a human adenovirus.

20. (Amended) Cells according to claim 1, wherein the viral regions of the second genic unit, are totally or partially constituted by the viral regions of a human adenovirus.

22. (Amended) Cells for the production of helper dependent

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adenoviral vectors including the first genic unit as defined in claim 1.

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23. (Amended) Cells for the production of helper dependent adenoviral vectors, including the second genic unit as defined in claim 1.

24. (Amended) The cells according to claim 1, wherein said cells are mammalian cells.

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27. (Amended) Use of the cells according to claim 1, for the production of helper dependent adenoviral vectors including at least a gene of interest.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends Claims 7-10, 15-18, 20, 22-24, and 27 to produce new amended claims that are not multiply dependent. Once examination on the merits has begun, the Applicant may elect to amend new amended Claims 7-10, 15-18, 20, 22-24, and 27 to make these claims multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims.

Amendment of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Appendix A (2 pages)